Rice Rotting in a FCI Godown in Delhi

*240. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that 21000 tonnes of rice is rotting in just one godown of FCI in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government plan to increase the storing capacity; if so, the year-wise details for the next five years?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) and (b) About 21,000 MT of rice has been lying in the Loni Depot of the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) received during 1991-92 and 1994-95. A portion of these consignments have still not been liquidated due to its poor quality at the time of receipt from Punjab, labour problem at the Depot and location of the stocks in a non-rice eating area. The stocks have now been downgraded to 'D' category due to prolonged storage.

(c) Additional storage capacity of 50,000 MTs is proposed to be constructed by the Food Corporation of India in Delhi during the remaining two years of the current Five-Year Plan as follows:—

2000-2001	25,000MTs
2001-2002	25,000 MTs
TOTAL:	50,000 MTs

The plan for creating more storage capacity after 2002 will be framed after the size and shape of the next Five Year Plan has been decided.

WRITEEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Accidents in Chemical Factories

1669. SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that accidents in the chemical factories are increasing day by day; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Ban on utensils made of plastics

†1670. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:
PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether various scientists of the country are demanding an immediate ban on utensils made of plastic;

(b) whether in view of suggestions of scientists and its ill-effect on infants, Government are contemplating to take a decision on it; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Government has not received any demand from scientists for banning utensils made of plastics.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Lifting distribution curbs on fertilizers

1671. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to lift all kinds of distribution curbs on all fertilizers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when these curbs would be lifted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (c) Currently, urea is the only fertilizer which is under distribution control of the Government of India. The distribution of phosphatic and potassic fertilizers has been decontrolled since 25.8.1992. The Government's intention is to ultimately decontrol all fertilizers including urea after taking into account its fiscal capacity so as to achieve an optimum ratio in the consumption of different types of nutrients on the one

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.